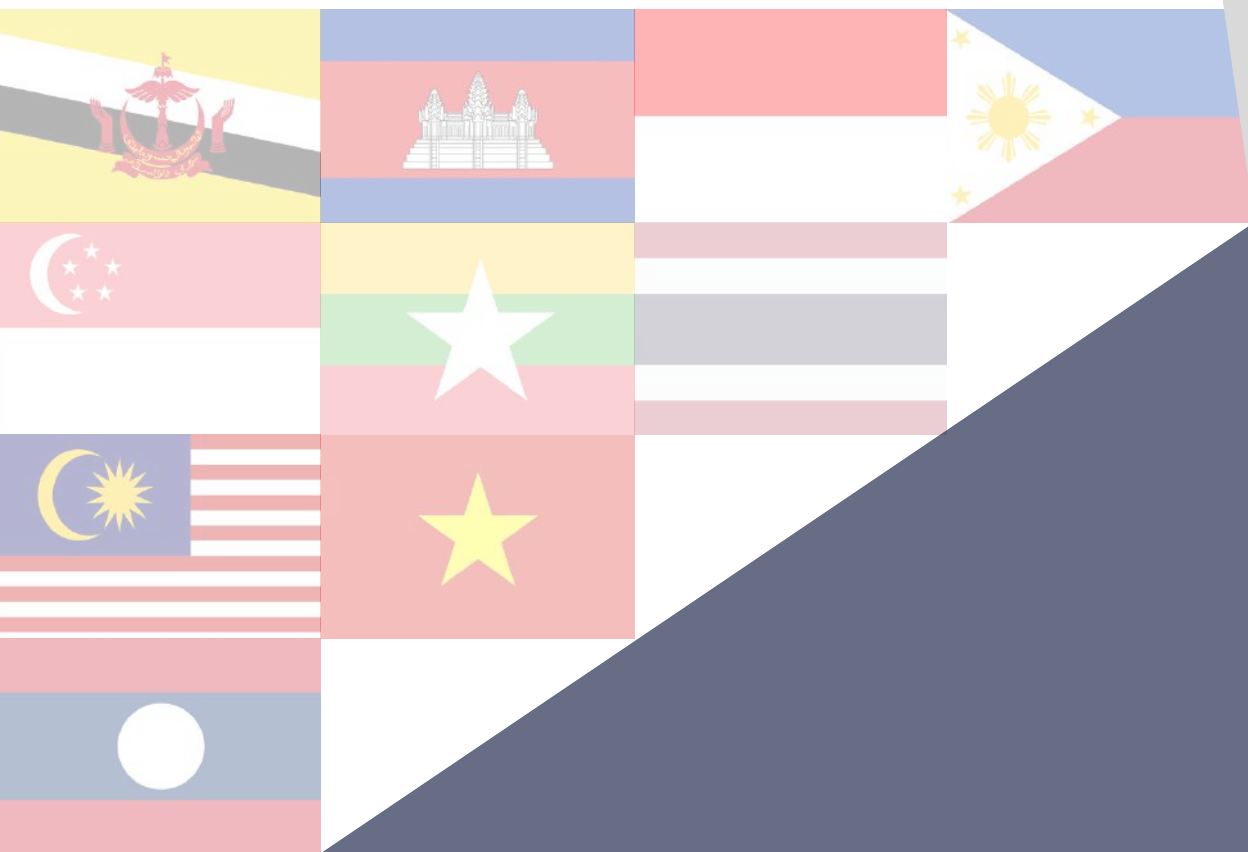




ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018 - NOVEMBER 2019



SPOTLIGHT

The 13th ALA General Assembly and The ASEAN Law Conference 2018

The 13th ALA General Assembly (“the General Assembly”) and The ASEAN Law Conference 2018 (“the Conference”) were held at Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore, from 25 to 28 July 2018, to resounding success. More than 450 participants from 20 different countries were in attendance. All 10 ASEAN countries were also represented at the General Assembly and Conference. Apart from the Heads of the Delegation of the ALA National Committees, the General Assembly and Conference were also graced by several notable figures, including ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Dr AKP Mochtan, representing the ASEAN Secretary-General, as well as Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea of the Philippines.

At the Opening Ceremony, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon delivered a welcome address in his capacity as the Chairman of ALA Singapore. CJ Menon spoke of the improbability of ALA, being an association of lawyers from nations of widely differing socio-economic backgrounds and legal traditions, and the important roles played by ALA’s pioneers.



He also spoke of law as the guardian of the promise of economic integration, and how lawyers can help the process of greater integration within ASEAN. This was followed by the address of ALA President Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, who recounted the founding of ALA in 1979 and concluded with a call to action for ALA to step up and fast-track ASEAN integration. ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Dr AKP Mochtan then followed with an encouraging progress update on the implementation of the blueprint of the ASEAN Community 2025, and noted the remarkable achievements of ALA in the area of legal cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States.

Finally, Singapore's Minister for Finance Mr Heng Sweet Keat delivered the Keynote Address, speaking on the importance of remaining committed to the economic integration of ASEAN so as to ensure the region's continued relevance and competitiveness in a changing global economy. Minister Heng also spoke about how the legal fraternity can help unlock regional opportunities by drawing valuable lessons from the experience of other communities, as well as by embracing legal technology and engaging the private sector.



The Conference

The theme of the Conference was "The Power of ONE: Unlocking Opportunities in ASEAN Through Law", consonant with the very raison d'être of ALA to promote greater cooperation and convergence in the ASEAN region through the instrumentality of law. A total of 63 speakers from the ASEAN region and beyond, including judges, law practitioners and academics, took part in 10 panels (6 plenary sessions and 4 parallel sessions), including one which took the format of a mock trial.

The first plenary session was entitled "A New Phase (and Face) of Law: Opportunities and Challenges in the ASEAN Economic Community", and panellists were Justice Chao Hick Tin, Professor J H H Weiler, Professor Fan Jian, Professor Hikmahanto Juwana, Mr Luca Castellani and Mr Minn Naing Oo. Professor Weiler challenged the audience to rethink the role of ASEAN law in domestic courts, and proposed that individuals should have recourse to domestic courts where errors have been made because of the ignorance of an ASEAN obligation. Mr Minn Naing Oo supported this proposal, whereas Professor Hikmahanto voiced concerns over the role that domestic courts can play where ASEAN law has not been incorporated into domestic law.



The third plenary session on "Disruptive Technologies on Business Landscapes in ASEAN: Opportunities and Challenges" featured panellists Mr Sriram Raghavan of IBM, Mr Yeong Zee Kin of PDPC, Mr Supawat Srirungruang, Mr Lam Chee Kin of DBS and Mr JJ Disini. Mr Sriram Raghavan raised and discussed three foundational technologies poised to become cornerstones of disruption – artificial intelligence, blockchain and the Internet of Things. Panellists shared their views on the ways in which such technologies create and solve problems, and the challenges that they pose for regulators in the arena.



The second plenary session concerned "Law as an Instrument to Facilitate the Success of the ASEAN Economic Community", and featured panellists Justice Kannan Ramesh, Mr Stephen J Brogan, Professor Ignacio Tirado, Ms Natasha Nababan and Mr Patrick Ang. Panellists shared their views on the role that courts can play to facilitate convergence in ASEAN, emphasising the role of soft law and institutions such as the Asian Business Law Institute which has led various convergence projects on cross-bolder insolvency.

Other panels at the Conference included "Fair, Effective and Efficient Dispute Resolution to Facilitate the Success of the ASEAN Economic Community"; "Power of One: ASEAN Economic Community Financial Integration; Competition Law in the ASEAN Economic Community"; "Rule of Law – Role in Attracting Trade and Investments in ASEAN"; "Cross-Border Obstacles in ASEAN and Solutions", all of which saw lively debates by the learned panellists and were well-received by a captive audience. The Conference concluded with a panel on "Stock-taking and the Way Ahead", in which Professor Yeo Tiong Min SC provided a summary of previous proceedings and invited panellists to comment on issues raised in other panels of the Conference.



The General Assembly and the Gala Dinner

At the General Assembly, CJ Menon was unanimously elected as the new ALA President, taking over from Atty. Avelino V. Cruz of the Philippines. Mr Paul Quan from Singapore was also elected as ALA Secretary-General.

Atty. Cruz concluded the General Assembly as outgoing ALA President by welcoming the handover of the presidency, and urging ALA to fully embrace its new capacities and to move towards engaging more partners beyond ASEAN. CJ Menon then gave a short address as the new ALA President, and highlighted the uniqueness of ALA as being an organisation rooted in the friendships and personal relationships of its members.

CJ Menon subsequently delivered his manifesto speech at the Gala Dinner, outlining his vision for ALA in the coming three years. CJ set out three particular areas of focus, namely strengthening links within ALA, fostering greater cooperation between ALA and other stakeholders in the legal industry, as well as strengthening ALA's links with other ASEAN institutions. The Gala Dinner was held with its characteristic zest, with performances by the different ASEAN delegations ranging from vibrant dance items to rousing choruses of national tunes.



40th ALA Governing Council Meeting

The 40th ALA Governing Council Meeting was held on 28 July 2018, at the Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore. The Meeting, which was held concurrently with The ASEAN Law Conference 2018, was attended by representatives of 9 ALA National Committees. The Meeting was chaired by Hon. Atty. Avelino V. Cruz. The Meeting unanimously agreed to posthumously elevate the late ALA Founding President Hon. Senator Edgardo J. Anagara to the ALA Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions. This was followed by a special tribute to Retired Chief Justice Kifrawi of Brunei Darussalam by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon of Singapore. ALA Secretary-General gave a report on ALA activities in the last three years, followed by a report by Atty. Andre C. Palacios on the ALA Cambodia Special Meeting on the ASEAN Law Institute. Singapore also raised for discussion a concept note on a virtual marketplace for internship and training opportunities within ASEAN. The Meeting concluded with Thailand's agreement to host the 41st Governing Council Meeting in November 2019.



15th ALA Championship Golf Tournament

The 15th ALA Championship Golf Tournament was held on 25 July 2018 at Sentosa Golf Club (Serapong Course), Singapore, with a strong showing of close to 120 golfers from seven ASEAN countries. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the golf game had to be abandoned after six holes were played. In spite of this, the enthusiastic golfers used the tournament as an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, and to make arrangements to return in full force at the 16th ALA Championship Golf Tournament.





SPECIAL FEATURE:

THE ALA PRESIDENT'S CALLS

1 ASEAN

Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon called on ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi on 12 March 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Areas in which ALA may support and assist the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) were discussed. To establish a common understanding of ASEC's needs and the matters discussed, ALA agreed to submit four concept notes, namely on ALA's role in:

- monitoring compliance of ASEAN instruments
- promoting awareness of ASEAN legal instruments and their implementation
- promoting legal convergence in the area of enforcement of judgments and arbitration awards
- establishing a panel of experts which ASEC can consult in specific legal areas



2 BRUNEI

On 20 February 2019, CJ Menon called on Solicitor-General Zuraini binti Haji Sharbawi and ALA Brunei at the Attorney-General's Chambers of Brunei Darussalam. Also present at the call were Assistant Solicitors-General Datin Hj Hasnah Binti Hj Ibrahim, Hashimah Binti Hj Moh Taib, and Suhana Binti Haji Sudin.



3 INDONESIA

CJ Menon called on Chief Justice Hatta Ali, Chairman of ALA Indonesia and met with members of ALA Indonesia at the Supreme Court of Indonesia on 12 March 2019.

4 MALAYSIA

On 10 December 2018, CJ Menon called on Chief Justice Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Richard Malanjum, Chairman of ALA Malaysia, and met with members of ALA Malaysia. CJ Richard Malanjum was succeeded by Chief Justice Tan Sri Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, with whom CJ Menon met on 12 September 2019 to update Her Ladyship on the current work of the ALA.



5 PHILIPPINES

CJ Menon called on retired Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, Chairman of ALA Philippines on 12 April 2019 in Manila. CJ Menon also met with Justice Antonio T. Carpio, Justice Andres B. Reyes Jr., Mr Avelino Cruz, Mr Alfredo C. Lim and Mr Danilo L. Conception from ALA Philippines.



VIETNAM

CJ Menon called on Dr. Nguyen Van Quyen, Chairman of ALA Vietnam and met with members of ALA Vietnam on 26 September 2019 at the Vietnam Lawyers Association.

During the calls, CJ Menon shared key aspects of the manifesto of his presidency. These include strengthening and building institutions, such as the ASEAN Law Institute, establishing greater linkages within ASEAN and other ASEAN agencies, and encouraging renewal efforts within the various National Committees.

ASEAN Law Institute Launched



The ASEAN Law Institute ("AsnLI") and its website were launched on 13 April 2019 at the New World Hotel in Metro Manila, Philippines, with ALA President Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon launching the website and swearing in the first set of AsnLI officers. The AsnLI Chairman is Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, former ALA President and now Philippine Special Envoy to the EU. Chairman of ALA Singapore Justice Lee Seiu Kin is AsnLI's Vice Chairman. The members of the Governing Board of AsnLI present were Atty. Suon Visal (Cambodia), Dr. Normin Pakpahan (Indonesia), Justice Dato Mary Lim Thiam Suan (Malaysia), Ms. Thi Thi Myint (Myanmar) and Atty. Patricia Ann Prodigalidad (Philippines). Also present was Justice Wichai Euaungkanakul (Thailand). Assistant Professor Andre Palacios is AsnLI's Executive Director. Chairman of ALA Philippines and former Philippine Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban welcomed the participants to the event. Thereafter, then Philippine Chief Justice Lucas Bersamin gave his opening remarks. The guest of honour was Philippine Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea who is a member of ALA Philippines. The event was attended by ALA Secretary General Paul Quan, delegations from the ALA National Committees, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Timely creation

The creation of AsnLI is timely due to the intensified efforts by the ASEAN countries to expedite and deepen the process of ASEAN integration. The ASEAN countries seek to integrate their economies into a single market and production base that will be the fourth largest in the world by the next decade. ASEAN integration necessarily requires changes to the national laws of the ASEAN countries as well as to the ASEAN regional legal system, including the adoption of new ASEAN agreements. AsnLI will help ALA perform its special mandate under the ASEAN Charter as the ASEAN-accredited civil society organisation for law-related matters. ALA is the ASEAN Secretariat's civil society advisor for law and its partner for strengthening legal cooperation and legal infrastructures among ASEAN countries. ALA created AsnLI in Singapore on 28 July 2018, almost four decades after ALA was founded. The establishment of AsnLI was approved in principle by ALA in Manila on 25 October 2017 and was discussed in detail in Siem Reap on 8 June 2018. By creating AsnLI, ALA has again affirmed its commitment to the ASEAN motto of "One Vision, One Identity, One Community."



AsnLI's purposes

AsnLI will support ALA in promoting the harmonisation of ASEAN national laws. The harmonisation of the national laws of the various ASEAN countries is important as it will expedite the creation of a single market and production base. Also the harmonisation of an ASEAN country's national laws with its international obligations under the ASEAN agreements will promote the Rule of Law. AsnLI will also support ALA in developing ASEAN regional laws and ASEAN mechanisms for dispute avoidance and resolution. AsnLI will assist ALA in engaging with the ASEAN Secretariat and other organs and in collaborating with ASEAN stakeholders from the legal, business, and public sectors.

AsnLI's activities

Under its By-Laws, AsnLI will undertake four types of activities. First, AsnLI will conduct ASEAN law research to create and disseminate knowledge of ASEAN regional law, ASEAN national laws, and ASEAN comparative law. For this purpose, AsnLI will create a panel of ASEAN law experts to conduct legal research promoting ASEAN integration and legal harmonisation. Second, AsnLI will build the capacity of ASEAN lawyers and cooperation among them. ASEAN lawyers need to have the necessary capacity to meaningfully engage in ASEAN integration as they play an important role in the process as decision-makers and advisors. Third, AsnLI will develop awareness, consensus, and support among ASEAN stakeholders for ASEAN legal harmonisation. To expedite the process of ASEAN integration, it is important that the different branches of government of an ASEAN country as well as the various stakeholders in its private sector, including the business groups, know and support the legal changes that will result from ASEAN integration. Fourth, AsnLI will help monitor the national implementation of ASEAN legal instruments. These instruments are intended to produce a positive impact on the lives of the ASEAN citizens, yet the instruments face various challenges in their implementation. AsnLI can undertake legal research and consult with stakeholders to assist the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN countries in monitoring and improving their efforts to implement the ASEAN regional agreements at the national level. An ASEAN country's efforts will necessarily include amending its national laws to harmonise these with its international obligations under the ASEAN agreements.

The AsnLI website can be accessed at <https://aseanlaw.institute>.



Brunei Darussalam's new ALA Chairman

Appointment of the Honourable Attorney General of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hairol Arni bin Haji Abdul Majid as the Chairman of ALA Brunei Darussalam

The Honourable Attorney General of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hairol Arni bin Haji Abdul Majid has been appointed as the new Chairman of the ALA National Committee of Brunei Darussalam.

He succeeds Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kilfrawi Dato Paduka Haji Kifli, the former Chairman of ALA Brunei Darussalam, who retired from civil service on 30 June 2018.

Dato Paduka Haji Hairol Arni bin Haji Abdul Majid began his career as a Counsel at the Attorney General's Chambers in 1988 before being appointed as Magistrate of the Supreme Court in 1994, and has since risen through the ranks as Chief Magistrate in 1999, Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court in 2002 and eventually elevated to the High Court bench in 2008. He was appointed the Attorney General of Brunei Darussalam on 9 August 2018.

CHIEF JUSTICE SUNDARESH MENON'S COURTESY CALL ON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



The Honourable Solicitor General, Dayang Zuraini Binti Haji Sharbawi, received a courtesy call from ALA President Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon at the Law Building in Bandar Seri Begawan on 20 February 2019. During the courtesy call, the Honourable Solicitor General and CJ Menon exchanged views on various issues of common interest. CJ Menon took the opportunity to touch base with ALA Brunei on his proposed plans during his three-year term as ALA President. Some of these plans include improving connectivity between ALA and other ASEAN bodies, mainly the ASEAN Secretariat, as a strong legal resource.

CJ Menon shared his plans for promoting awareness on ALA's work and programmes amongst ASEAN legal professionals and the youth such as law students and graduates, including the establishment of a reliable and online portal for disseminating information on possible legal training and internships offered by international law firms and Chambers. The Honourable Solicitor General welcomed CJ Menon's proposals, and expressed interest in using ALA as a platform to curate quality legal training for local legal professionals. She also provided a brief background on current developments in Brunei's legal profession. The call serves as an affirmed renewal of close cooperation through the ALA platform.

Also present during the courtesy call were senior officers of the Attorney General's Chambers.



ALA Special Meeting “ALA Institute for Harmonization of Law”, Siem Reap, Cambodia (7 – 9 June 2018)

As the youngest ALA national committee to be established, ALA Cambodia was honoured to be the host country and the co-host for a special meeting of ALA, “ALA Institute for Harmonization of Laws” which was held on 8 June 2018 at Shinta Mani Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia. Delegates from 7 ASEAN countries attended this historic meeting (Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia).

The 13th ASEAN Law Association General Assembly The ASEAN Law Conference 2018: *The Power of One*, Singapore (25 – 28 July 2018)

Permanent Vice-President of ALA Cambodia, Atty. Prom Vichethakara, attended the 13th ASEAN Law Association General Assembly and The ASEAN Law Conference 2018 on 26 July 2018 in Singapore.





The 31st LAWASIA Conference: New Era for South East Asia, Siem Reap, Cambodia (2 – 5 November 2018)

From 2 to 5 November 2018, ALA Cambodia collaborated with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia to co-host the 31st LAWASIA Conference, “New Era for South East Asia” which was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia.



The Joint Seminar on “Laying the Foundation for Future Cooperation in Promoting Accountability and Transparency in ASEAN”, Jakarta, Indonesia (26 February 2019)

On 26 February 2019, ALA Cambodia Permanent Vice-President, Atty. Prom Vichethakara attended the first ASEAN, ASEANSAL, and AIPA Joint Seminar on “Laying the Foundation for Future Cooperation in Promoting Accountability and Transparency in ASEAN” which was held at Sheraton Grand Jakarta Gandaria City Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.



Launch of ASEAN Law Institute, Manila, Philippines (13 April 2019)

On 13 April 2019, President of ALA Cambodia, Atty. Suon Visal, as a member of the Governing Board of ASEAN Law Institute, attended the Launch of ASEAN Law Institute in Manila, Philippines.



NEWS FROM INDONESIA



Forum Group Discussion on Best Practices of Implementating e-Courts and e-Court systems in ASEAN

On 7 September 2018, ALA Indonesia, in collaboration with the Supreme Court of Indonesia, held a Forum Group Discussion (“FDG”) to facilitate sharing on the best practices of implementing e-courts and e-court systems in ASEAN Member States. This timing of this event was opportune, not long after the Supreme Court’s successful launch of e-courts in August 2018.

The FDG was held at Movenpick Resort, Bali with four participating Member States and about 30 participants in attendance comprising of judges, senior officials from the Indonesian Supreme Court, lawyers and academics.

The FDG was chaired by Justice Takdir Rahmadi of Indonesia and representatives from the Member States presented on the use of e-courts in their respective countries. The FDG was well received amongst participants and provided an ideal platform for Member States to informally exchange ideas on the effective implementation of e-court systems. This remains an evolving area. As the legal profession moves towards increasing digitisation, it is likely that such avenues of discussion will stimulate new proposals and encourage Member States to learn from and challenge one another.



16th ALA Championship Golf Tournament

The FDG was followed by the 16th ALA Championship Golf Tournament, held at the New Kuta Golf, Bali, Indonesia on 8 September 2018 with four participating Member States. Indonesia had the largest contingent of over 100 golfers. The Philippines was represented by 3 golfers, Malaysia by 7 and Singapore by 2. The participants showed off their impressive skills in the spirit of friendly competition, and after facing-off tough opponents, Malaysia emerged victorious, clinching the Tun Dzaidin Challenge Trophy. Malaysia will seek to defend its position at the next ALA Championship, scheduled to be held in Phuket in November 2019.

NEWS FROM LAOS



Appointment of new President of the People's Supreme Court

His Excellency Khampha Sengdara was appointed the new President of the People's Supreme Court in June 2019. His Excellency graduated from the public security academy in Vientiane before taking a Master's degree in party building and obtaining a high-level diploma in political ideology. He has many years of grass-roots building experience and formerly undertook police investigation-interrogation duties under the Ministry of Public Security. In addition, he was a member of the Ministry of Public Security's Party Committee and served as Vice President of the People's Supreme Court for 12 years.

Appointment of new Chair of ALA Malaysia

The Right Honourable Tan Sri Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat was elected Chair of ALA Malaysia on 2 August 2019. Born in Kota Bharu, Kelantan on 2 July 1959, Her Ladyship read law at University of Malaya and graduated with honours in 1982. Her Ladyship began her career in the legal field as a Legal Officer at the Southern Kelantan Development Board in 1982 and later in 1984, as a Legal Officer at the Municipal Council of Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.



Her Ladyship joined the Judicial and Legal Service in 1986 as an Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman, at the Drafting Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers. Subsequently, her Ladyship served as a Magistrate at the Port Dickson Court, as a Federal Counsel at the Kuala Terengganu Legal Aid Bureau, as a Senior Assistant Registrar at the High Court at Seremban, as a Deputy Registrar at the High Court of Kuala Lumpur, as a Special Officer to the Right Honourable Chief Judge of Malaya, as a Special Officer to the Right Honourable Chief Justice, as a Judge of the Sessions Court at Kuala Lumpur cum Special Officer to the Right Honourable Chief Justice, and as the Registrar of the High Court of Malaya cum Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia. Her Ladyship's final posting in the Judicial and Legal Service was as the Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia from 2005 to 2006. On 2 October 2006, Her Ladyship was appointed as a Judicial Commissioner of the High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur. On 5 September 2007, Her Ladyship was elevated as a Judge of the High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur. Her Ladyship also had the experience of serving as a Judge of the High Court of Malaya at Shah Alam, Selangor.

On 8 January 2013, Her Ladyship was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Appeal. On 26 November 2018, Her Ladyship was appointed as a Judge of the Federal Court. On 2 May 2019, Her Ladyship was appointed as the Chief Justice of Malaysia.

ALA MYANMAR'S CALL ON ALA PRESIDENT

On 6 August 2019, ALA President Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon welcomed the Chairman of ALA Myanmar Union Attorney General (UAG) U Tun Tun Oo to the Supreme Court of Singapore.

During this meeting, CJ Menon shared with UAG Tun Tun Oo an outline of the major initiatives that he has planned for his term as ALA President. UAG Tun Tun Oo in turn expressed his support for ALA initiatives and took the opportunity to provide an overview of the key developments of Myanmar's legal landscape. Following the meeting, UAG was brought on a tour of the Supreme Court of Singapore.

UAG Tun Tun Oo had made this official visit to CJ Menon during his short stay in Singapore to attend the Singapore Convention on Mediation Signing Ceremony and Conference. Through such courtesy calls, CJ Menon is able to gain a better understanding of the legal circumstances in each country so as to promote and strengthen the rule of law for every ASEAN member state through his ALA Presidency.



Welcome to my Household

Remarks of Retired Chief Justice ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN to welcome Singapore Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and his delegation who paid a courtesy visit to him at his home, 1203 Acacia, Dasmarinas Village, Makati City, on April 12, 2019.

1. On behalf of my family and of ALA Philippines, I welcome and thank you Mr. Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, for visiting my home. I was so surprised and honored when I was told that you and your delegation wanted to pay a courtesy call on me and the ALA Philippine National Committee. I did not think that I, in particular, deserve it. After all, I have already retired from active service and have passed my prime while Your Honor is the distinguished head of the Singapore judiciary, the concurrent President of the ASEAN Law Association and the Chairman of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices. Anyway, by visiting us, you and your delegation of 11 justices and lawyers from Singapore ennoble us beyond measure. My entire house is open to you and your delegation. If you have not done so, you can visit my den where the manuscripts of the 1,200 decisions I penned for the Supreme Court are, plus my 14 books. Also, you can, if you have not done so, visit also my memorabilia room near the swimming pool where souvenirs given to me, including the gowns I wore as a magistrate and as a humble recipient of honorary doctoral degrees are as well as the desk and furniture I used, which I purchased from the Supreme Court. They should really be in a museum. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court does not have one. Many of my retired colleagues are urging me to spearhead a private funding for such a museum, but that's quite another story.

2. We are especially delighted that you have brought two of your distinguished colleagues, Justice Chao Hick Tin and Justice Lee Seiu Kin, who are of course my personal friends of long standing.

3. We are also pleased that among us today are three former ALA Presidents, Justice Chao, the Honorable T.P.B. Menon and our own Avelino V. Cruz, who had just been elected earlier this afternoon as Chairman of the ASEAN Law Institute, with Justice Lee as Vice Chairman. By the way, Ave Cruz had recently been named by President Rodrigo Duterte as the Special Envoy of the Philippines to the EU, with the rank of Ambassador. Let us give all of them a big round of applause.

4. I, of course, fondly remember that when I was the incumbent Chief Justice of my country, Justice Chao was the incumbent ALA President and that he, together with several ALA VIPs from other ASEAN countries, flew to the Philippines to honor me with a big celebration at the nearby Dusit Thane Hotel. Thank you indeed, Justice Chao. I will never forget the honor you bestowed on me as long as I live.



"MY ENTIRE HOUSE IS OPEN TO YOU AND YOUR DELEGATION."

5. May I now introduce my household? First and foremost of course is my dear wife Leni, whom you may have met in previous ALA events. After 37 years of graduate school teaching at the Asian Institute of Management, she retired in 2009, to join me in enjoying our senior years. Since then, she learned Chinese painting, and all around this living room are some of her works. We have a limited number of smaller reprints of her paintings which we would like to give each of you later before you leave our home.

6. We have five children, three of whom are not here. They live and work in the East Coast of the United States. Of the two living in the Philippines, our daughter, Tet Manalac, who took over her Mom's teaching assignment at the Asian Institute of Management, is unfortunately unable to come because

she and her husband Noy are now, as I speak, hosting a reception for their daughter. However, Len Yaptangco and her husband Alex, are with us. They have two sons: Rafa is at school in the Ateneo de Manila, while Miguel is finishing his Masters in Entrepreneurship at the Babson College in Boston.

7. By the way, I told Miguel that to be a great entrepreneur, he did not have to go to that famous school in the United States. He should have just applied as an assistant or messenger of one of our special guests today, Ms Tessie Sy-Coson, the charming Chairman of BDO, the largest bank in the Philippines, and who, according to Forbes, is the richest woman in our country. She is a major supporter of ALA Philippines. Two years ago, she contributed to ALA Philippines over P6 million, from which we drew the \$100,000 to jump-start the ASEAN Law Institute which will be inaugurated tomorrow. But closer to my heart, she was my student in commercial law about 10 years ago when she was still a teenager taking up her Bachelor of Commerce degree at the nearly Assumption College.

She actually wanted to be a lawyer, but her father, Henry Sy, who – until his death earlier this year was the richest man in our country – stopped her and asked her to be an entrepreneur instead. Now, she can retain the world’s best and brightest lawyers – with her as the boss. And talking of ALA supporters, may I introduce my good friend James Go, the chairman of JG Summit, one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines, which owns and operates Cebu Pacific Air, a huge food and beverage company, a petrochemical complex, a big real estate company, and the second largest chain of super malls, second only to the SM Super Malls operated by the family of our benefactor Tessie Sy-Coson. May I also acknowledge another ALA supporter, Manny Pangilinan, Chairman of PLDT, our telephone company, of Meralco, our electric power distributor, and of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, which is engaged in water distribution, tollways, power generation, 14 major hospitals (in partnership with the GIC of Singapore), logistics, railways, and other businesses. Another ALA supporter, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Chairman of the Ayala Corporation, the oldest conglomerate in the Philippines which developed Makati into a world class city, sent his regrets for his absence today because he is abroad.

8. Now let me introduce the ALA Philippines National Committee, whom Mr. Chief Justice Menon wanted specifically to meet. Representing the judiciary are: Justices Antonio T. Carpio and Andres B. Reyes, Jr. whom you have met in past ALA meetings. Our other member from the Supreme Court, Justice Estela M. Perlas-Bernabe is abroad. Of course, we have our former ALA President, Ave Cruz, who still sits in our National Committee. Then, we have Alfredo C. Lim, President of Pagcor which regulates all gaming activities in our country and Danilo L. Conception, President of the University of the Philippines.



The other members, Senator Franklin Drilon, Emilio B. Aquino (the Chairman of our Securities and Exchange Commission), former ALA Secretary General Gina Geraldez, and Jerry Parulan have prior commitments. Our honorary chairman, CJ Lucas P. Bersamin is out of town but will return tonight and will attend tomorrow’s functions.

9. Finally, may I also introduce our officers, Grace Salonga, Andre Palacios, the newly-elected Director General of the ASEAN Law Institute, Rowena Flores, Maria Teresita Sison Go, Sol Hermosura, Mike Toledo, Gov. Boy Reyno, Dr. Sam Bernal, who holds three earned doctorates, Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Philosophy and is now finishing his Doctor of Chemistry, and lastly, my Executive Assistant, Marivic Romualdez.

Thank you.



Appointment of new Chair of ALA Singapore

Justice Lee Seiu Kin was elected Chairman of ALA Singapore in January 2019. He was the Vice-Chairman from 2012 until the Chief Justice was appointed ALA President. He was Chairman from January 2007 until the election of the Chief Justice as Chairman in 2012.

Justice Lee's first career was in civil engineering, after graduating with a B.Eng. (Hons) from the University of Adelaide in 1977. He also holds a M.Sc. (Construction Engineering) from the National University of Singapore and an MBA from INSEAD, Fontainebleau. After obtaining his LL.B. (Hons) from the National University of Singapore in 1986 and his LL.M. from the University of Cambridge in 1987, Justice Lee joined the Singapore Legal Service. He served as State Counsel and Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Attorney-General's Chambers until October 1997, when he was appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court. From 1999 to 2002, he was concurrently President of the Industrial Arbitration Court. In October 2002, he was appointed Second Solicitor-General of Singapore. Justice Lee was appointed to the Supreme Court Bench on 11 April 2006.

NEWS FROM THAILAND

Appointment of new Chair of ALA Thailand



Chief Justice Slaikate Wattanapan has been appointed the new Chairman of ALA Thailand. Chief Justice Wattanapan graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree (second class honours) from Thammasat University. He also earned his Master of Arts (Criminal Justice Administration) from State University of New York at Albany (Government of Thailand scholarship) and

Certificate of Public Administration from University of Washington (Hubert H. Humphrey scholarship).

Chief Justice Wattanapan commenced his judiciary career as a judge-trainee in 1980. During his distinguished career, he held various executive positions including Chief Judge of Ranong Provincial Court, Chief Judge of Phuket Provincial Court, President of the Court of Appeal Regions VIII, President of Tax Division in the Supreme Court and the Vice-President of the Supreme Court.

Presently, Chief Justice Wattanapan also serves as Chairman of the Judicial Commission, Chairman of the Judicial Administration Commission and President of the Thai Bar Association.



ALA PRESIDENT'S CALL ON ALA VIETNAM

Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and the Singapore delegation called on ALA Vietnam on 16 September 2019 at the Vietnam Lawyers Association.

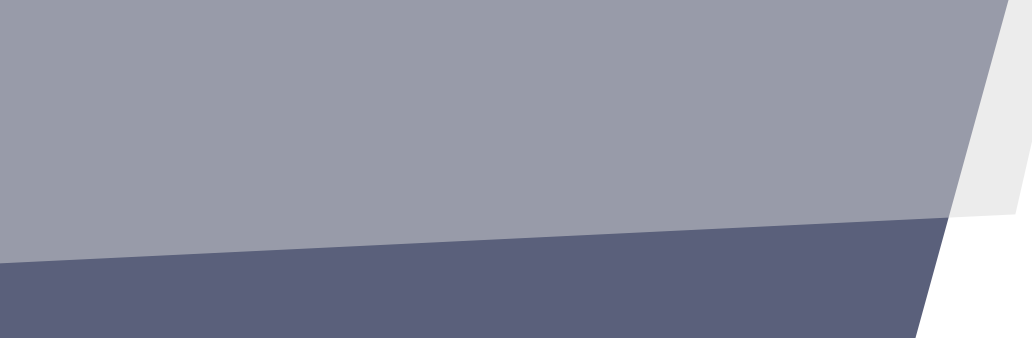
In his capacity as ALA President, CJ Menon shared with Dr Nguyen Van Quyen (Chair of ALA Vietnam) the initiatives in the pipeline to build and strengthen ALA, to establish linkages between ALA and other ASEAN institutions and to promote the renewal of ALA.

CJ Menon highlighted to Dr Nguyen that the launch of the ASEAN Law Institute is a quantum leap for ALA. For the first time, ALA will have an executive arm to facilitate the generation of ideas and support the operations of ALA.

In addition, CJ Menon apprised Dr Nguyen of his meeting with the ASEAN Secretary-General in March 2019 at Jakarta. This meeting led to the crystallisation of 4 concept papers:

- (1) Monitoring compliance of ASEAN instruments
- (2) Promoting awareness of ASEAN legal instruments and their implementation
- (3) Promoting legal convergence in the area of enforcement of judgments and arbitration awards
- (4) Establishing a panel of experts which ASEAN Secretariat can consult on specific legal areas

CJ Menon also unveiled plans to organise a triennial moot competition for ASEAN law students. Through this competition, CJ Menon hopes to generate interest and publicity in ALA and ASEAN related issues among the younger generation of the legal community. Ms Le Thi Kim Thanh (Vice Chair of ALA Vietnam) responded enthusiastically to the idea of an ASEAN moot competition.



Ms Le shared that Vietnam has begun to organise domestic moot competitions in the last 2 to 3 years as their law students are generally very interested in them. Ms Le believed that their law students would want to reach out to other students in the region and look forward to Vietnam sending the best team to participate in this ASEAN moot competition.

Further, CJ Menon shared the idea of creating a training market place to match the legal training needs in ASEAN with legal training opportunities within and outside of ASEAN. A mechanism for law firms, universities and research organisations to list internships and placements opportunities on the ALA website, and for applicants to likewise indicate their interest to take up such opportunities is being considered. Such internships and attachments will give young lawyers the opportunities to participate in the work of ALA and to practice law in other parts of ASEAN. The possibility of strengthening bilateral collaboration between ALA Vietnam and ALA Singapore was also discussed.

Besides ALA initiatives and matters, the meeting also discussed the increasing importance of mediation as a resolution method for commercial disputes against the backdrop of rising foreign direct investments in Vietnam.

At the end of the meeting, gifts were exchanged between the representatives of ALA Vietnam and the Singapore delegation before the Singapore delegation was ushered off to the next meeting with the Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hoa Binh.

13TH CONGRESS OF VIETNAM LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

In September 2019, the Vietnam Lawyers Association (VLA) held its 13th Congress to elect a new leadership board and to set objectives, directions and tasks for the coming term (2019-2024). The Congress was attended by 500 representatives from Government agencies and 63 Provincial Lawyer Associations, with Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hoa Binh delivering a speech at the Congress. Dr. Nguyen Van Quyen was re-elected as VLA President and Ms Le Thi Kim Thanh as Vice President.



Dr. Nguyen Van Quyen, VLA President (standing, in the middle) reporting the preparation for the Congress to Permanent Deputy Prime Minister of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam - Hon. Truong Hoa Binh (sitting on the right of Mr. Nguyen Van Quyen)

SIGNING STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE

RUSSIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

On 22 May 2019 in Moscow, Dr Nguyen Van Quyen, President of the Vietnam Lawyers Association and Mr Vladimir Gruzdev, Chairman of the Board of the Russian Lawyers Association officially signed the Strategic Cooperation Agreement witnessed by the Prime Ministers of both countries. The objective of the Agreement is to establish partnership relations, to promote law and to exchange legal professional experience between the two organisations.

